

Licence to M/s Seagram Distilleries

4593. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Royal Stag, blended whisky, is being sold in Maharashtra under the label of "Manufactured by Seagram Distilleries Limited, Dindori, District Nasik";

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have not granted any permission/licence to M/s Seagram for setting up any distillery at Dindori; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s Seagram Manufacturing Ltd. were granted permission by Government of India in 1993 to set up a wholly owned subsidiary for establishment of a non-molasses based spirit manufacturing/blending facility of 25000 KLS per annum. In terms of conditions of the approval letter, the licensed capacity for manufacture of 5000 KLS per annum has been endorsed in favour of the company. The Government of India has also granted permission to M/s Oceanic Distilleries Pvt. Ltd. in 1996 to produce malt spirit from Barley with a capacity of 5000 KLS per annum at Dindori in Maharashtra.

Government of Maharashtra has informed that taking into consideration (i) the Government of India's approval of 1993 and (ii) the approval for change of name from M/s Oceanic Distilleries Ltd. given by the Registrar of Companies, Maharashtra, Government of Maharashtra had allowed transfer of licence of M/s Oceanic Distilleries Ltd. in the name of M/s Seagram Manufacturing Ltd.

(c) In the event of any violation of the approval given to M/s Seagram Manufacturing Ltd. in 1993, appropriate action would lie with the various concerned and relevant authorities after ascertaining the facts and following the due processes of law.

Ban on manufacture and sale of drug-combinations

4594. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to ban manufacture and sale of eight drug combinations as they seem to have no proven therapeutic value or contain ingredients, for which there is no justification;

(b) which are the drug combinations thus banned and the names of manufacturers;

(c) whether Government have been continuously evaluating such drug combinations and whether drugs earlier banned are reappearing under new formulation; and

(d) what is the relevance of multi-vitamin health tonics/capsules to the Indian context and whether Government would examine their therapeutic worth?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has prohibited the manufacture, sale and distribution of eight categories of drug formulations for human use with effect from 1.1.2002 vide Gazette notification GSR 170 (E) dated 12.3.2001. These formulations are prohibited because of no proven therapeutic value or contain ingredients for which there is no justification.

(c) The drug formulations of doubtful therapeutic value/irrational formulations in the country are reviewed by the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), a statutory committee, through its sub-committee. It is continuous process to review such drug formulations in the country. Manufacture and sale of prohibited formulations is in